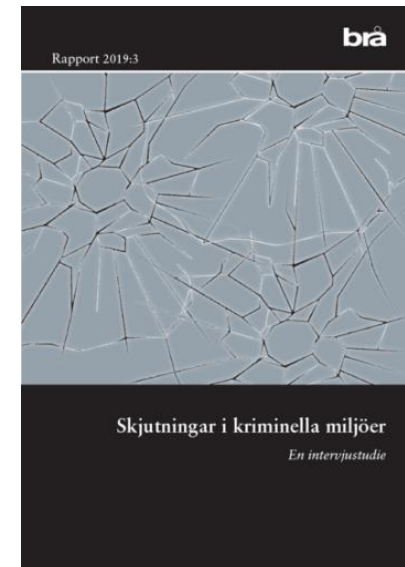


Brås research about social disadvantaged areas

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- Social disadvantaged areas
- Lethal violence in Sweden
- Shootings in criminal milieus

What is a social disadvantaged area?

Police definition of social disadvantaged areas

An area is disadvantaged if it is:

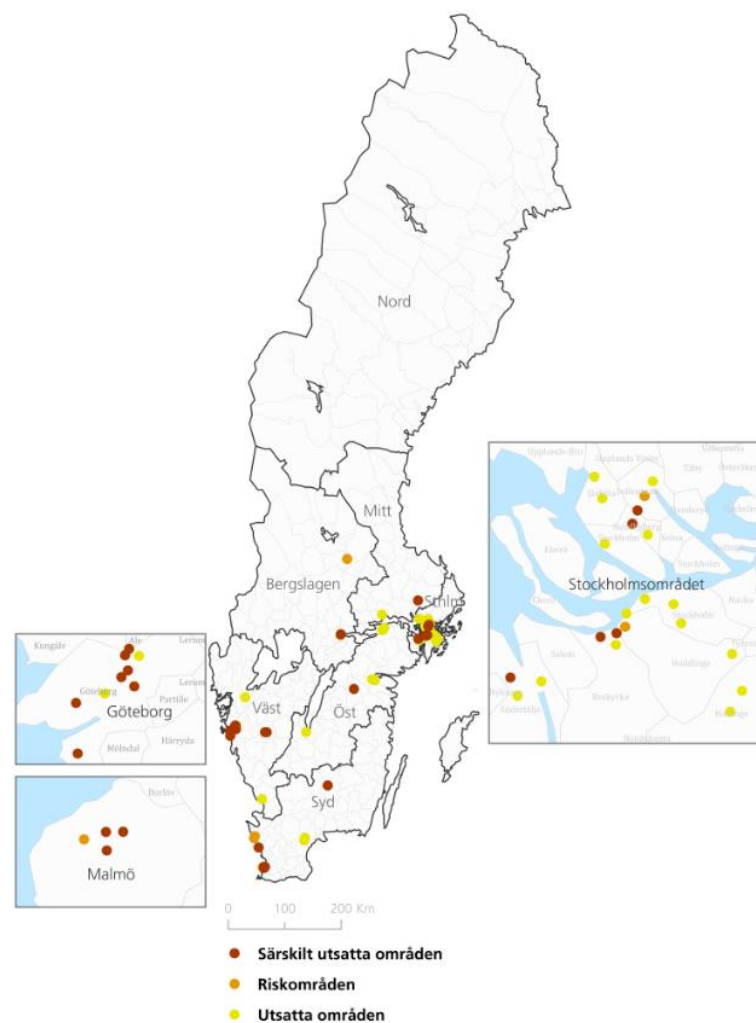
Characterised by a low socioeconomic status where criminals have an impact on the local community. The impact is more tied to the social context in the area than to the criminals' studied desire to take power and control the local community. The situation is deemed serious.

4 police reports of social disadvantaged areas.

- 2014
- 2015
- 2017
- 2019

The police report 2019

- In total 60 social disadvantaged areas
- Three categories of vulnerable areas:
 - Particularly social disadvantaged areas
 - 22 areas
 - Risk areas
 - 10 areas
 - Social disadvantaged areas
 - 28 areas



Particularly social disadvantaged areas:

- *Characterised by a general disinclination to participate in the criminal justice process.*
- *In the area, threats and violence against witnesses, injured parties, and persons who report crimes may occur.*
- *Difficult for the police to do their job. Regular adaption of working methods or equipment can be required.*
- *Many times normalisation has occurred, which has led to a situation where neither the police nor the residents reflect on the divergent situation in the area.*

Socially disadvantaged areas

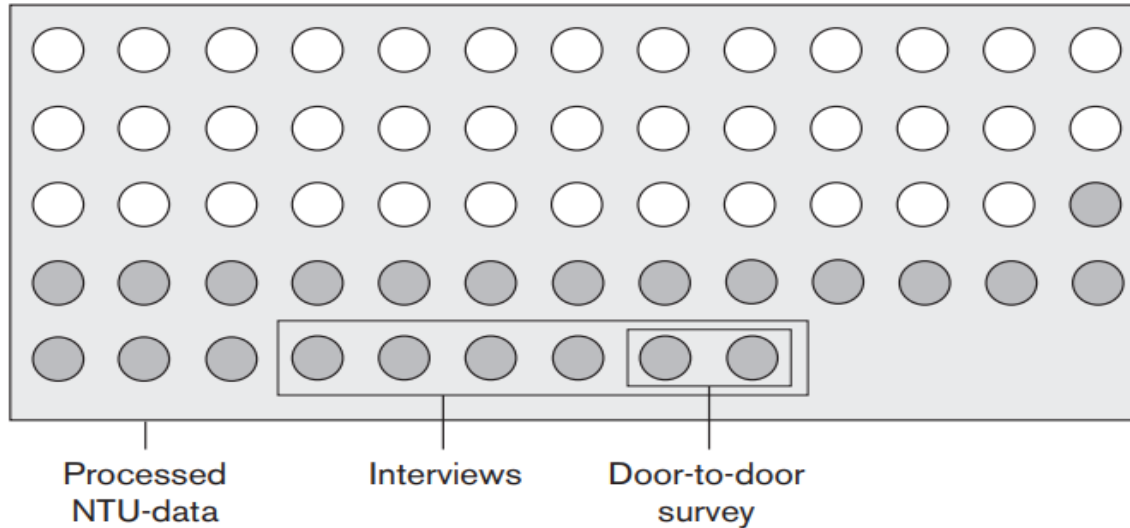


Areas that have extensive problems with:

- ethnic and economic segregation,
- high unemployment
- low education
- high sickness rate.

Our methods

Model 1. Diagram of which socially disadvantaged areas different material covers. Particularly disadvantaged areas are marked in grey.



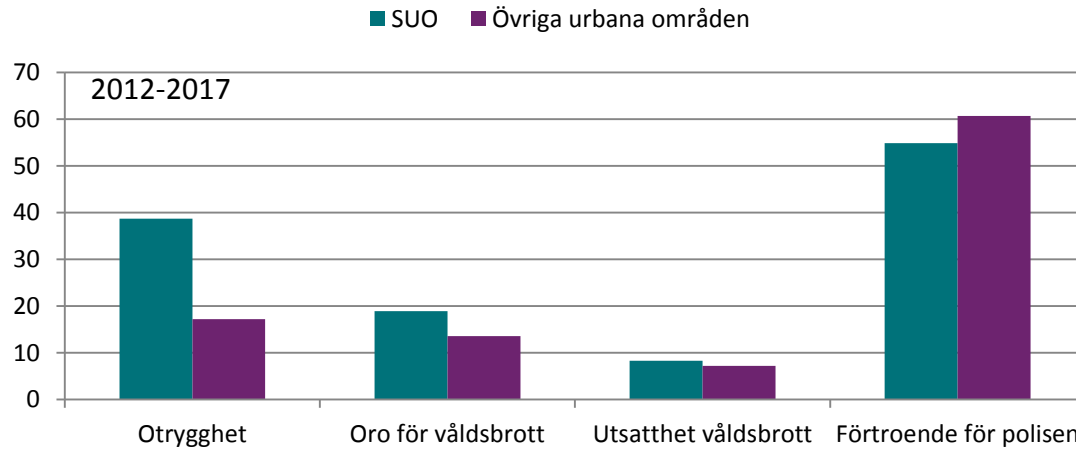
n≈5000

N=116

N=1176

More than 500 000 live in the 61 areas identified by the police

Some general findings



The development between 2006-2011 and 2012-2017

- Unsafety not changed in SUO, but decreased a bit in other urban areas
- Confidence in the police increased a bit in SUO, not changed in other urban areas
- Concern and victimisation (violent crimes) has decreased more in SUO

Why do they feel unsafe?

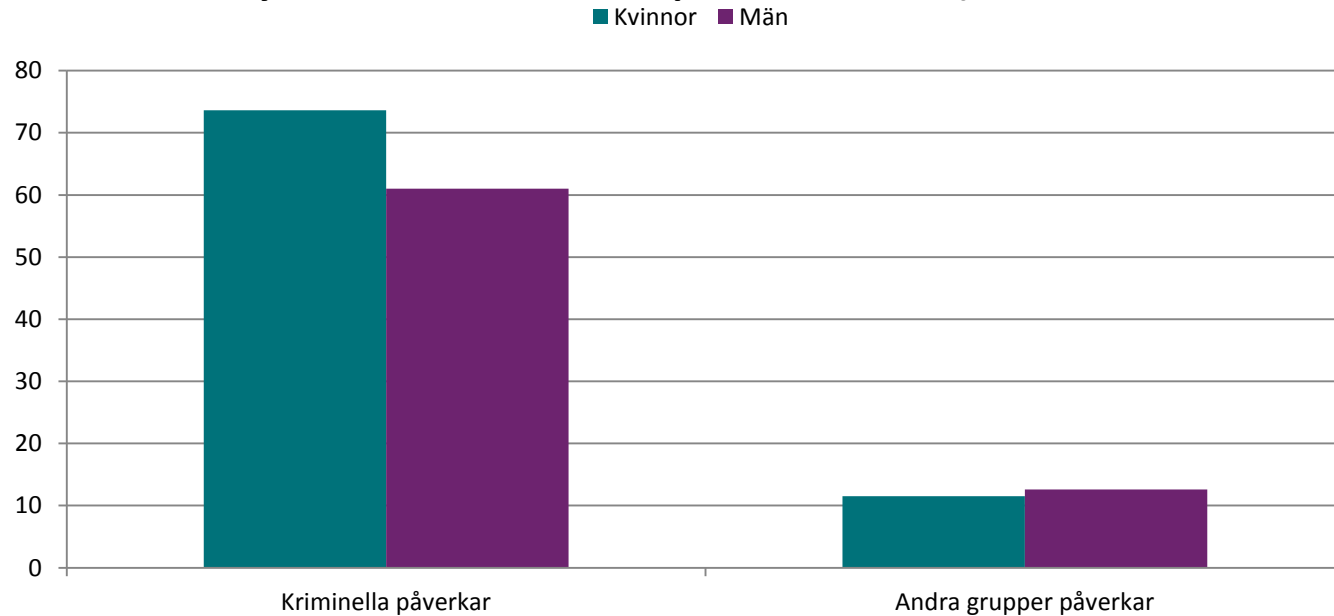
- Exceptional situation with a high concentration of visible crime and disorder:
 - *Criminal networks, open drug trade, littering, traffic offences, cars being set on fire and shootings.*
- Difference between residents – it depends on the relationship you have with the young men who "hang out" in the streets
- Strategies to avoid or adjust to the problem

Concerns of people who feel safe

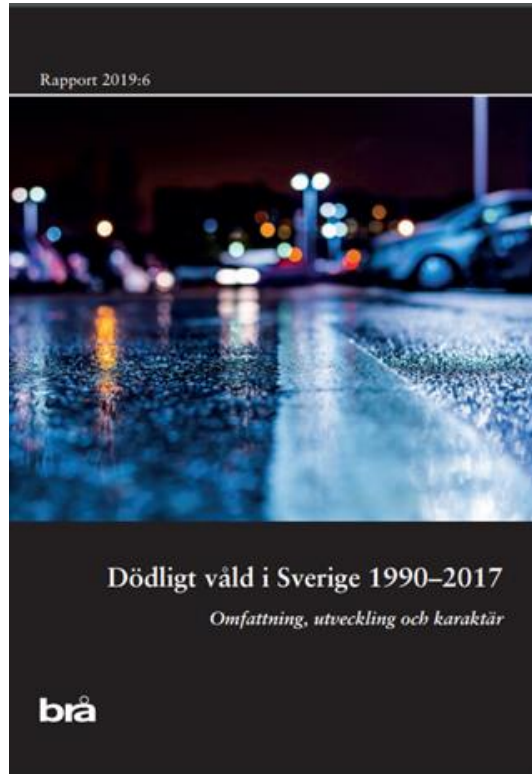
I worry about my children. People drive mopeds fast in the area, it's dangerous for small children.

The apartment was hit by gunfire once. Now I'm always afraid to leave my children in that room at night. But we've never had anything like that again.

Type of group that influences residents (call police, be a witness, move freely in area, interfer to stop vandalism etc.)



Lethal Violence in Sweden

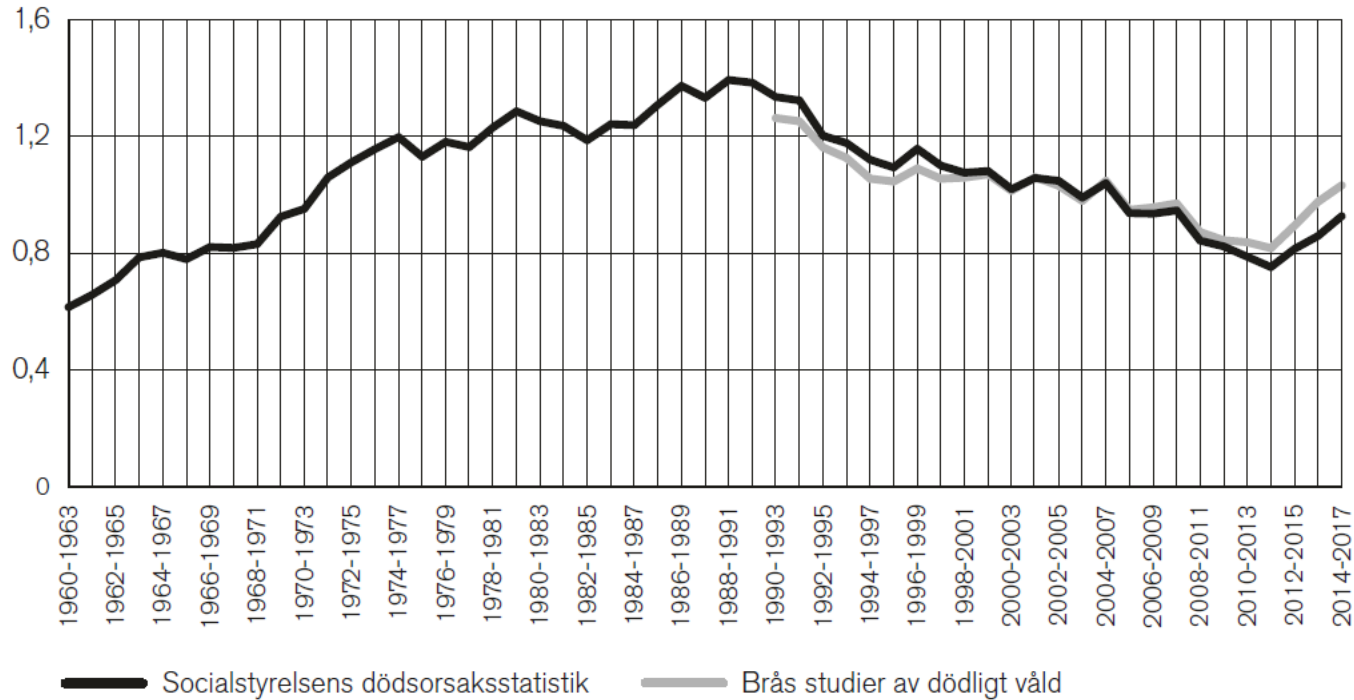


2018:

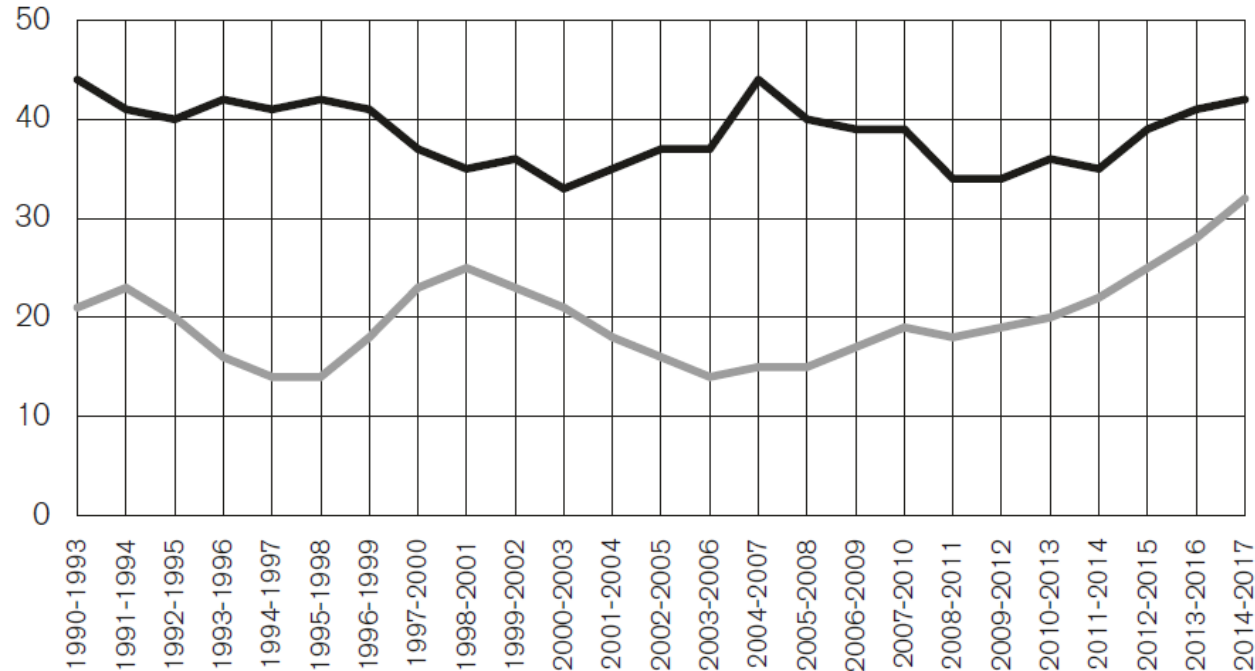
108 cases

Firearms used in 43 cases

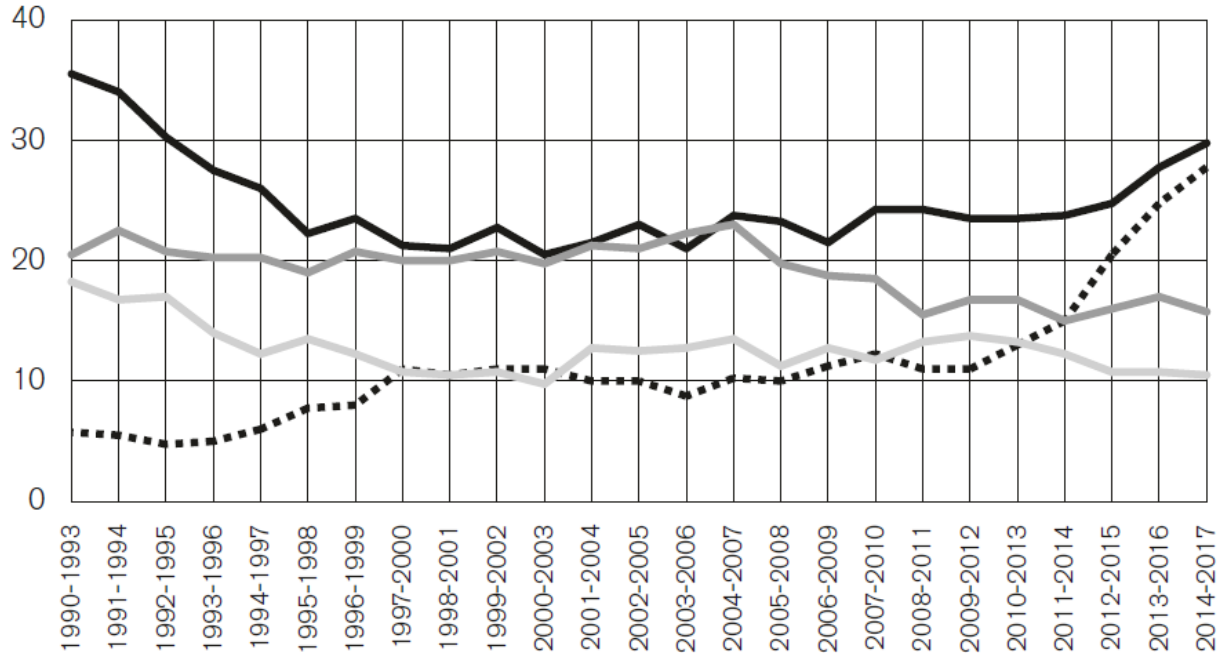
Lethal violence per 100 000 of population (glidande fyraårsmedelvärden) 1960 – 2017. Sources: Socialstyrelsen och Brå.



Number of cases with knife or other sharp object respectively firearms as method for lethal violence. Glidande fyraårsmedelvärden 1990 – 2017.



Number of cases of lethal violence connected to conflicts in the criminal milieu, in close relationships, in the rest of the family, and spontaneous quarells.



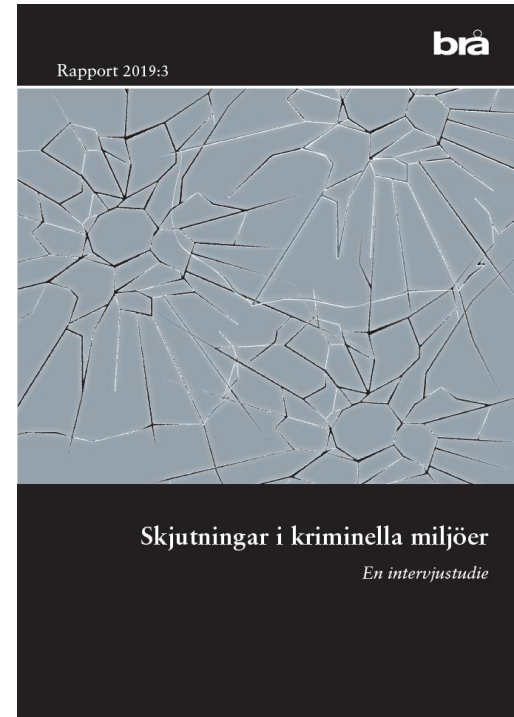
-
- Konflikt i den kriminella miljön
 Övrigt dödligt våld inom familj
 Spontanbråk och andra dispyter
- Dödligt våld i nära relationer

Tabell 2. Dödligt våld i utsatta områden enligt Noas definition respektive i övriga Sverige. Genomsnittligt antal per 100 000 i befolkningen 2014–2017.

	Antal	Andel i procent	Totalt per 100 000 i befolkningen
Utsatta områden	69	17	3,1
Övriga landet	341	83	0,9
Totalt	410	100	1,0

Shootings in criminal milieux

An interview study



Methods and data

- Interviews with 21 individuals who have been active in milieux where gun violence occurs.
 - Not *all* of the criminal milieux
 - Describe and understand gun violence
 - Why is it increasing?

The path into the criminal milieu

- Well-known criminogenic factors
- The presence of the milieu in residential areas
 - Everyday social process rather than recruitment
 - The drug market as "accessible"

Changeable relations and unstable structures

- "Friendship" och "loyalty" rather than formalised structures
- Loyalty and betrayal – a paradox?
- Already existing relationships and unstable cooperations

"We can be best friends, but when you start earning money, you get more greedy and you get more suspicious of everything and everyone. And then it begins - everyone was so close and brothers and so on, then suddenly - bang."

Violence as a power currency

- An investment in the criminal career
 - The importance of reputation
 - Protecting and advancing one's position
- The cases on conflict
 - "Easily offended" – everything counts
- "Violence capital"

"There are many hangarounds, too. And in one day they can become the toughest guy. Previously, there was a clear hierarchy. But now, it is enough that a seventeen-year-old decides to shoot someone. Okay, then everyone knows that this person can shoot people. And all of a sudden, he is tougher than all those who have been tough for ten years. "

What has changed?

- A less structured milieu?
- More and more serious violence?
- A process of inflation?

There is no structure in the suburbs. Crime needs structure. Before, if you were to attack someone, then you needed an argument for why. And people could say "no but you can't do that, it's unnecessary". Today it's not like that. You think of yourself, but a gun does the speaking.

Violence as defence

- A struggle for position - and survival
- Exposure affects conflict dynamics
- The risks of reputation

"He may already have killed someone, you know. So, will you wait and think, "Will he come and apologize, or will he start messing with me?" No, it's just - take him before he takes you. "

"When someone has wronged you, you can't go to this person and pat him on the shoulder, say, " Hey, you have done me wrong but it's ok, I spare you ". When he finds out he has done you wrong, he will be afraid. "Wow, he's murdered before, he'll want to murder me." Even if your intent is not to kill him, he will have it in mind. So what will he do? He may gain support from others who hate you, who'll back him and encourage him to kill you. So you get killed sooner or later. "

Alternatives to shooting

- Informal mediation
 - The importance of trust
 - A limited alternative
- Leaving the criminal milieu
 - Experiences of betrayal and violence
 - Difficult to see alternatives

Conclusions and assessment

- Regrowth and instability
 - Strengthen efforts in vulnerable areas
- Effects of violence on the milieu itself
- Stimulate exits from milieu

The importance of criminal markets

- Reduce access to guns and drugs

Thanks for listening!

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